

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for searching a list of available programs from an electronic program guide, comprising the steps of:

generating a query in response to a command by a user, wherein the user command comprises a request to generate program recommendations from the available programs;

said query specifying at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, wherein at least one of said attribute-value pairs is selected based on at least one prior search that has been executed by the user to obtain program recommendations;

said query generation being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search; and

comparing attributes of said available programs to said attribute-value pairs specified by said query to identify programs from the available programs satisfying said query.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said user command is provided by a single button click.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said attribute-value pairs selected based on the at least one prior search is obtained using the top-N search terms, where N is a positive number, that have been previously used in a query for said attribute.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of receiving one or more default terms for a given attribute that supercede said corresponding top-N search terms.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of decomposing said query to identify attribute-value pairs contained in said query and incrementing a counter indicating a number of times each of said attribute-value pairs appears in a query.
7. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing a query of an electronic program guide, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a command from a user initiating said query;
 - retrieving at least one prior search of the electronic program guide that has been executed by said user; and
 - generating said query to include at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, ~~wherein~~ at least one of said attribute-value pairs is being selected based on said at least one prior search, and said query generation being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said user command is provided by single button click.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one of said attribute-value pairs selected based on said at least one prior search is obtained using the top-N search terms, where N is a positive number, that have been previously used in a query for said attribute.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of receiving one or more default terms for a given attribute that supercede said corresponding top-N search terms.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of decomposing said query to identify attribute-value pairs contained in said query and incrementing a counter indicating a number of times each of said attribute-value pairs appears in a query.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing a query of an electronic program guide, wherein said query is comprised of at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, comprising the steps of:

receiving a command from a user initiating said query;

retrieving the top-N, where N is greater than or equal to zero, attribute-value pairs for each possible attribute based on a number of times said attribute-value pairs have previously been utilized in at least one prior search that has been executed by the user to obtain program recommendations; and

constructing said query with said top-N attribute-value pairs for each possible attribute unless a default attribute-value pair has been specified for a given attribute, said query construction being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said user command is provided by single button click.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of receiving one or more default terms for a given attribute that supercede said corresponding top-N search terms.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of decomposing said query to identify attribute-value pairs contained in said query and incrementing a counter indicating a number of times each of said attribute-value pairs appears in a query.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for searching a list of available programs from an electronic program guide, comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to execute the computer readable code to:

generate a query in response to a command by a user, wherein the user command comprises a request to generate program recommendations from the available programs;

said query specifying at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, wherein at least one of said attribute-value pairs is selected based on at least one prior search that has been executed by the user to obtain program recommendations;

said query generation being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search; and

compare attributes of said available programs to said attribute-value pairs specified by said query to identify programs from the available programs satisfying said query.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for constructing a query of an electronic program guide, comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to execute the computer readable code to:

receive a command from a user initiating said query;

retrieve at least one prior search of the electronic program guide that has been executed by said user; and

generate said query comprised of at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, ~~wherein~~ at least one of said attribute-value pairs is being selected based on said at least one prior search, and query generation being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for constructing a query of an electronic program guide, wherein said query is comprised of at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to execute the computer readable code to:

receive a command from a user initiating said query;

retrieve the top-N, where N is greater than or equal to zero, attribute-value pairs for each possible attribute based on a number of times said attribute-value pairs have previously been utilized in at least one prior search of the electronic program guide that has been executed by the user; and

construct said query with said top-N attribute-value pairs for each possible attribute unless a default attribute-value pair has been specified for a given attribute, said query construction being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search.

21. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for searching a list of available programs from an electronic program guide, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable program code being executable to perform a method comprising:

generating a query in response to a command by a user, wherein the user command comprises a request to generate program recommendations from the available programs;

said query specifying at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, wherein at least one of said attribute-value pairs is selected based on at least one prior search that has been executed by the user to obtain program recommendations;

said query generation being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search; and

comparing attributes of said available programs to said attribute-value pairs specified by said query to identify programs from the available programs satisfying said query.

22. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for constructing a query of an electronic program guide, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable program code being executable to perform a method comprising:

receiving a command from a user initiating said query;

retrieving at least one prior search of the electronic program guide that has been executed by said user; and

generating said query comprised of at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, ~~wherein~~ at least one of said attribute-value pairs is being selected based on said at least one prior search, and said query generation being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search.

23. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for constructing a query of an electronic program guide, wherein said query is comprised of at least one attribute-value pair for each of a plurality of program attributes, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable program code being executable to perform a method comprising:

receiving a command from a user initiating said query;

retrieving the top-N, where N is greater than or equal to zero attribute-value pairs for each possible attribute based on a number of times said attribute-value pairs have previously been utilized in at least one prior search of the electronic program guide that has been executed by the user; and

constructing said query with said top-N attribute-value pairs for each possible attribute unless a default attribute-value pair has been specified for a given attribute, said query construction being performed automatically in response to said user command by accessing a historical search database that indicates a number of times that each attribute-value pair appears in the at least one prior search.